



THE CONNECTION

IOWA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY

ISSUE 7, APRIL 23, 2014—DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN AWARENESS DAY

WELCOME FROM DIRECTOR LUKAN

I am often asked if I think the “war on drugs” is a failure. I like to respond that while we haven’t erased the scourge of drug abuse from society, we have made significant progress and win many small battles. Significant amounts of people enter drug treatment and find meaningful employment because of their interactions with law enforcement.

More importantly, countless youth are removed from very dangerous situations and put on a path of brighter opportunities because of law enforcement intervention.

For example, last year anti-drug task forces funded in part by ODCP were responsible for referring over 400 kids living in drug endangered homes to care and services they likely would not have received otherwise. Too of-

ten people using illegal drugs end up abusing or neglecting children in their care.

By recognizing these situations and making sure the kids are safe and well cared for, we improve the future and likely save lives. To me, the battle against illegal drugs is certainly worth it, especially when dealing with those most vulnerable to the harmful effects-vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

Steven F. Lukan

WHAT IS DEC?

The Iowa Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical harm or neglect as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation or distribution.

They may also be children whose caretakers' substance misuse interferes with his or her ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

Iowa's drug endangered children efforts are a coordinated response to the

impact of parental/caregiver substance abuse on Iowa children, who are often found to be living in deplorable conditions; neglected and suffering. Iowa professionals are coming together as teams to provide immediate intervention and follow-up care for these children.

The Iowa Alliance for Drug Endangered Children reflects an advocacy community in Iowa driven by the need to stand up for Iowa children endangered by their parents or caregivers illicit drug use.

The Iowa DEC community, like similar collaborative efforts in other states, is a committed group of professionals from multiple disciplines dedicated to finding solutions to the problems children face as the result of living with substance abusing parents, and to build a better world for these children.



POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Welcome from Director Lukan*
- *What is DEC?*
- *DEC Protocol*
- *Save the Date*
- *Proclamation*

HELPFUL LINKS:

- *Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center*
www.drugfreeinfo.org
- *Iowa Medicine TLC*
www.iowamedicinetlc.org
- *Office of Drug Control Policy*
www.iowa.gov/odcp
- *Partnership @ Drug Free Iowa.org*
www.drugfreeiowa.org
- *Iowa Poison Control Center*
www.iowapoison.org
- *National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children*
www.nationaldec.org

April 23, 2014
is **National Drug Endangered Children Awareness Day**

PROTOCOLS

A local Iowa DEC Alliance utilizing best practices ensures that children receive an immediate and appropriate medical exam, including a test for exposure to toxic chemicals and developmental screening. Upon being removed from the crime scene, the children are provided with new clothing, food, and, if needed, crisis counseling and a shower or bath to reduce chemical exposure. A forensic interview is conducted with the child in a child-friendly environment, and a medical exam is conducted to determine the child's immediate safety and to collect important evidence used in the drug and child abuse prosecutions and Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases.

SAVE THE DATE

The **2015 Iowa DEC Conference** will be held Monday, March 30th, 2015 at Prairie Meadows!

The **2014 National DEC Conference** will be held October 7-9, 2014 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL!



IOWA DEC AWARENESS DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, APRIL 23, 2014, IS DECLARED NATIONAL DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN AWARENESS DAY; AND

WHEREAS, THE MONTH OF APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH; AND

WHEREAS, DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN ARE A RISK OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT DUE TO THEIR PARENTS OR CAREGIVERS ILLEGAL DRUG USE, POSSESSION, MANUFACTURING, CULTIVATION OR DISTRIBUTION; AND

WHEREAS, CHILDREN WHOSE CARETAKERS' SUBSTANCE MISUSE INTERFERES WITH HIS OR HER ABILITY TO PARENT AND PROVIDE A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT CAN ALSO BE AT RISK; AND

WHEREAS, THROUGH MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT WE INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF INTERVENTION OCCURRING IN THE LIVES OF THESE CHILDREN; AND

WHEREAS, WITH INTERVENTION DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN CAN MOVE FROM RISK TO RESILIENCY; AND

WHEREAS, RESILIENCY CAN BREAK GENERATIONAL CYCLES OF DRUG AND CHILD ABUSE AND CAN CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF CHILDREN'S LIVES, AND

WHEREAS, ALL CITIZENS IN IOWA CAN PLAY A ROLE IN REDUCING RISK AND BUILDING RESILIENCY; AND

NOW THEREFORE, I, TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE DAY OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014, AS DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN AWARENESS DAY AND DO ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS OF IOWA TO PARTICIPATE AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD.



IOWA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Pape State Office Building Phone: 515-725-0300
 215 East 7th, Fifth Floor Fax: 515-725-0304
 Des Moines, IA 50319 E-mail: susie.sher@iowa.gov

WWW.IOWA.GOV/ODCP

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